

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

**Listing of Claims**

Claims 1-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (original): A method to provide a resource adapter that collaborates with an application server to provide services offered by an enterprise information system (EIS), comprising:

packaging a deployment descriptor into the resource adapter; and

deploying the resource adapter into a target operational environment based on properties defined in the deployment descriptor.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 12, wherein deploying the resource adapter into a target operational environment based on properties defined in the deployment descriptor includes,

configuring the resource adapter in the target operational environment to create a connection to an instance of the EIS.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 12, wherein deploying the resource adapter into a target operational environment based on properties defined in the deployment descriptor includes,

configuring application server mechanisms for transaction management.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 12, wherein deploying the resource adapter into a target operational environment based on properties defined in the deployment descriptor includes,

configuring security in the target operational environment.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 12, wherein packaging includes, packaging interfaces, implementation classes, utility classes, native libraries, and descriptive meta information into the resource adapter.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 12, wherein the target operational environment is selected from the group consisting of an application server and a Java 2 Platform, Enterprise Edition (J2EE) application.

Claim 18 (original): A system to provide a resource adapter that collaborates with an application server to provide services offered by an enterprise information system (EIS), comprising:

a connector provider to create the resource adapter, the connector provider specifying a deployment descriptor in the resource adapter; and

a deployer to deploy the resource adapter into a target operational environment based on properties defined in the deployment descriptor.

Claim 19 (original): The system of claim 18, wherein the deployment descriptor includes a connector, the connector enabling connections to the EIS.

Claim 20 (original): The system of claim 18, wherein the deployment descriptor includes connector contracts between the connector provider and the deployer (page 5, lines 6-8).

Claim 21 (original): The system of claim 18, wherein the deployment descriptor includes declarative information enabling the deployer to deploy the resource adapter into the target operational environment.

Claim 22 (original): The system of claim 18, wherein the resource adapter includes interfaces, implementation classes, utility classes, native libraries, and descriptive meta information.